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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,616	07/21/2003	Peter Neumann	GKN-0135	6595
23377	7590	08/18/2005	EXAMINER	
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP ONE LIBERTY PLACE, 46TH FLOOR 1650 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			SAVAGE, MATTHEW O	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1724	

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/624,616	NEUMANN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Matthew O. Savage	1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 and 6-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 5 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: the limitation of the metal oxide of the first layer penetrating into the second layer to a depth of 1.5-7.5 microns lacks antecedent basis in the specification.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bray et al in view of Anderson et al.

With respect to claim 1, Bray et al disclose a filter having a graduated structure (see FIG. 5) including a first and second layers 12, 14 each having a different pore size, the pore size of the first layer 12 being within a range of approximately 0.01-1 micron (e.g., .2 micron, see line 19 of page 22), the thickness of the first filter layer as being within a range of .5-50 micron (e.g., 15 micron, see line 18 of page 22), the filter being manufactured from sinterable materials (e.g., stainless steel and titanium dioxide, see lines 14 and 25 of page 22), the first layer being formed from a metal oxide material

(e.g., titanium dioxide, see line 14 of page 22), the second layer is formed from a metallic material (e.g., stainless steel, see line 25 of page 22), the thickness of the second layer being within a range of 5-300 microns (e.g., 250 micron, see line 26 of page 22 and line 7 of page 23), the metal oxide material of the first layer penetrating into the second layer to a depth of approximately 1.5-7.5 microns (e.g., encompassed by the range of "up to 50 microns", the second layer being a combination of layers 14 and 24, see line 26 of page 22), the pore size of the first layer is approximately 1/3 to approximately 1/6 of the pore size of the second layer (e.g., the pore size of the second layer being disclosed as 1-2 micron, see line 7 of page 23). Bray et al fail to specify a third layer. Anderson et al discloses an analogous filter including a third layer or support layer having a different pore size than the second and third layers and suggests that such an arrangement provides additional strength to the filter (see FIG. 2 and from line 51 of col. 5 to line 34 of col. 6 and lines 11-23 of col. 18). It would have been obvious to have modified the filter of Bray et al so as to have included a third layer as suggested by Anderson et al in order to increase the strength of the filter.

As to claim 2, Bray et al disclose the pore size of the first layer as being within a range of .05-.6 micron (e.g., .2 micron).

Concerning claim 3, Bray et al disclose a metal oxide that is difficult to oxidize (e.g., titanium dioxide).

Concerning claims 3 and 5, Anderson et al disclose a reducible oxide (e.g., iron oxide, see line 35 of col. 8).

Applicant's amendment to claim 1 has obviated the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

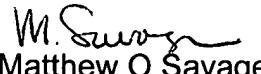
Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew O Savage whose telephone number is (571) 272-1146. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Matthew O Savage
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

mos
August 15, 2005